

From: Member of HSE Lung Disease Team

To: 2 x NHS Employees
(at least one being a member of the IPC Cell) + 1 x HSE employee

cc: 4 x HSE Employees

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 28 January 2021 16:35

To: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: For Consideration UK IPC views on use of FFP3 non AGPs

Dear [Redacted]

NHS England employee

Thank you for your email which has been passed to me for reply. HSE's position is unchanged in the expectation that NHS Trusts follow the four nations guidance issued jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Public Health Wales (PHW), Public Health Agency (PHA) Northern Ireland, Health

Protection Scotland (HPS)/National Services Scotland, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England, which was reviewed this month (21 January 21). [COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance).

HSE continues to review the emerging scientific evidence and advice from clinicians about the risk of transmission; currently the use of respirators, such as FFP2 or 3, are only for the highest risk aerosol generating procedures which are undertaken in medical settings and during dental procedures.

NHS Clinicians (not HSE)

The position stated by [Redacted] (below) is correct.

NHS England employee

The UK IPC cell have reviewed the current scientific evidence on the need to wear a respirator (FFP3) for routine clinical care and the agreed position is that (attached):

- A review of current, available evidence has not identified a change in the mode of transmission between new variant strains and previous circulating strains of SARS- CoV-2*
- No change to the PPE recommendations i.e. wider use of FFP3 respirators when AGPs not being performed*

My understanding is that some European countries will use FFP2 and not FFP3 as is current policy/HSE advice in the UK is that we would not recommend the use of FFP2 unless we were in contingency measures as these provide a lesser filtration rate than FFP3.

The use of FFP2 does not negate the need for fit testing

Regards,

[Redacted]



[Redacted]
Occupational Lung Disease Team

Note

This email provided via Freedom of Information request from NHS England
Annotations as to the organisations represented via the redactions provided
partly by HSE and partly by NHS England